

The DECLARATION and APOLOGY of the Protestant people, that is, of the Noblemen, Barrons, Gentlemen, Burgeses & Commons of all sorts now in armes within the Kingdome of Scotland, with the concurrence of their true and faithfull Pastors & of severall Gentlemen of the English Nation joined with them in the same cause, for defence & reliefe of their Lives, Rights and Liberties, and recovery and reestablisment of the true Protestant Religion, in behalf of themselves & all that shall joyn with and adhere to them.

They must be altogether Strangers, or very litle concerned in the Christian World who (after all that the Nations & Churches have seen of the Lord's mighty hand and outstretched arm in the late wars betuixt King Charles the first & his people & Parliaments of Scotland, England, & Ireland, against the then conspireings of Popery and Tiranny, to the ruine of true Religion & Liberty: The wonderfull advancement of the gospel & Kingdome of our Lord Jesus within these Kingdomes that therupon ensued: with the general refreshment, joy & security of all the Protestant Churches abroad, that thence redounded: And the no less rooted & firm Loyaltie of the same people, who, notwithstanding of their long bloody & fatall contendings with the Father, did yet upon reasonable, fair and just Treaties, concluded with all the assurance that either Religion, Honor, or gratitude could promise, call back and restore Charles the Second his Son, to his throne & Empire;) are not fully convinced and satisfied that, considering the perpetuall contradictings & counteractings of all these sacred and solemn engagements that immediatlie & ever since have been practised: the who's reigne of the aforesaid Charles the Second, through the sinistrous and subtile influences of a wicked & Popish party, now manifestly discovered, was a constant & uniform course of Perjury, Apostacy and Violence, begun with open rebellion against God, the rescinding not only of particular laws, but by an unparalleled, most unpolitick

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and pernicious device, of whole unexceptionable Parliaments, for the space of twenty seven years preceeding, notwithstanding both our Religion and Liberties were therein expressly, legally, and well provided for; And the cruel shedding of the best Protestant blood, in the most unjust execution of the late Marquis of Argile, and many other Worthies, contrary to all law and reason: Carried on by the smiting and casting out of more faithfull and pious Pastors, and scattering and dissipating of more true flocks and followers of Christ then was done in most of the ten primitive Persecutions, and the dilugeing of those Lands with all villanous debaucheries and abominable licentiousness, to the very profligating of Conscience, Morality, and common honesty, from among men; and thence forward accomplished by a most unrelenting persecution and oppression of the generality of God's people, in their consciences, persons, and estates, with vexations and rigours almost incredible, and that for no other reason but because they could not actively comply with these notorious perfidies, and the manifold profanations and Mischiefs wherewith they were attended.

But the hellish Mystery of Antichristian Iniquity, and arbitrary Tyrannie, imposeing upon many at home, too willing through their love of ease to be abused, and deluding the Protestant Churches abroad in that wofull & visible indifferency that everywhere reigns, by the vain pretext of the mere notion of our Court's empty & simulating *Protestant profession*, having of a long time, under the late King, made most remarkable advances in the following particulars, and many more that might be enumerat, all too evidently seen, & heavily felt, to need any explicate proof or demonstration.

As 1. Not only in the above-mentioned open & avowed revolt from God, by breach of sworn Treaties, Covenants, and coronation-oathes, and slighting & despising spontaneous promises & proclamations; the overturning the very foundation of Parliaments and ranversing at one blow our best & most Legal establishment; the ungrate als wel as the unjust putting to death of most innocent faithfull men, upon absurd pretences, convell'd by the Laws and customes of nations, and that in the time of God's greatest indig-

gence towards the authors; The desolating of the Churches, and changing of the ordinances of God, for setting up the frivolous and superstitious inventions of men; the countenanceing & encouraging of all vice & profanity, and the violent & grievous persecuting of all conscience, and conscientious men. But next, and more particularlie, in the conniving at Papists their meetings and Idolatrous Masses, while in the mean time all Protestant Non-conformists are persecuted with endless severities: The raising, keeping up, and increaseing of standing forces, the very bane of all civill & lawfull government; and that without any other measure save what the indigence of Court luxury and profusion did necessarlie put unto it: The declaring & appoynting of all Judges and Officers to enjoy their places onlie *during pleasure*, on purpose to make them more suple, and compliant to all their Master's designs: The abusing of the great trust of calling & dissolving Parliaments, the most high and necessary courts of the Kingdomes, by iniquous packing, unseasonable proroguing, pernicious discharging, and insolent baffling them at pleasure: The exalting of the King's Supremacy, under the colour of his Pretended Right & Power, about the externall government & policy of the Church, to an expresse and absolute power of *enacting and statuting in all Church-meetings, and matters as He in his wisdom shal think fit*, a ready and prepared tool to bring us back not only to Popery, but to Paganisme: The strange perversion of the high trust of the *militia*, committed to his Majesty expressly for the protection of good subjects, and the assistance of all our Protestant friends abroad, only to the invading and oppressing by lawless hosts of the worst both of Highlanders & Lowlanders, in times of profound peace, the best parts of the Kingdom, purpose-ly to ruine them, because too Protestants, by free quarter and other illegal exactions. And the making war most causelessly and obstinately against the States of the united Netherlands, our best neighbours, and the strongest bulwark of the Protestant Interest: The forcing of poor people by the extreme rigours of exorbitant *finings*, imprisonings, beatings, stigmatizings, spoylings, banish-ments,

ments & other violences, for the simple cause of Non-conformity, to take armes in their own defence, as at Pentland and Bothwell bridge, & then demaining and executing them, what on fields & what on Scaffolds, as the most desperat of traitors, and at the same time involving whole countreys, upon the most slender and absurd pretexs of inevitable intercommunings & resett, both in their crimes & punishments: The setting up of the most violent and obnoxious of men to be Ministers of Law, & packing Juries and Assizes most partially for their worst ends: The straining, stretching, & wresting of Law, not only in prejudice of every one suspected to be disaffected to their evill courses, but to the violation of all Right, for robbing & spoyling of Cities and Incorporations of their ancient and undoubted Priviledges: The transporting of free men as slaves to forraigne plantations, for not making faith to answer (against Law) *super inquirendis*; as also for not delating men upon oath (according to a most iniquous Law lately made against Non-conformists) in maters wherein the party put to swear judgeth them to be in their duty, and without exception of his nearest relation: The arbitrary imprisonings & detainings of free subjects, without either bringing them to tryall, or allowing them any hearing: the torturing of severall persones, even five times more of conscientious Non-conformists, within these twenty years then of all sorts of felons & malefactors in Scotland these hundred years bypast, & that without either just previous grounds, regarding of legal methods, or observing the measures of common humanity: The eliciting, by promise of indemnity, and the publik faith interposed for that effect, voluntary confessions of some, as of *Mr. James Mitchell*, and then not only retracting and disowning the condition, upon oath, in face of the justice-court, but further witnessing the confession to the poor man's condemnation, notwithstanding the books of Council containing the forsaide indemnity were produced and laid open befor them, befor and at the verytime of their swearing: Likeas of late, after most cruel & exquisit tortures practised upon *Mr. Spence* and *Mr. Carstairs*, and a full and ample promise made them,

them, with an act upon it, that neither they nor their evidence should ever be made use of to their own or any other man's hurt, they nevertheless caused produce and doe sustain *Mr. Carstairs* his deposition against *Bailzie of Ferriswood*, for an adminicle or aid to their lame and defective probation: The making men offenders yea traitors for words, and these true, fair, and innocent, as the Earle of Argile for declaring before the Councel after leave given, and with submission, purely for exonerating his own conscience, *That he believed the Parliament intended no contradiction in the Test, and therefor was willing to take it in their sense viz: for securing the Protestant Religion; and that he did not thereby mean to bind up himself from endeavouring lawfully, in Church & State, what Religion and loyalty might oblige and allow him to doe:* for which words nevertheless he was tryed & condemned as a traitor, in the loss of his life, lands and goods, and stands *de facto* deprived of both lands & goods, having only saved his life, in the extremity, by a gracious providential escape; The cruel executing unto the death of several hundreds within these twenty years, besides severall hundreds more that have either fallen in the fields or have been made to perish in their imprisonments or transportations, and that for the cause or on the occasion of their conscientious Non-conforming, and some of them (of which number several poor women) for their bare opinion about the King's breach of trust, never befor by them vented, but simply declared upon examination, and most part of them dispatcht with that barbarous inhumanity, as that (after no better example then that of the bloody *Duke of Alva*) they were by beating of drums hindered to speak to the people their last and dying words, and some of them contrair to the perpetuall custome of Scotland, and all the formes used in the Christian world, and as if it had been on designe to destroy both their souls and bodies, tryed, sentenced, and put to death in one day, yea the time and hour of their death industriously concealed from them, that they might be cut off by a more mortal surprize: The condemning some to death, others to the boreing of their tongues, and fineing ma-

ny in most exorbitant summes, even to an hundred thousand pound
 sterling, for calling the *Duke of York* a Papist, notwithstanding
 of the notoriety of the matter to all men, and his recusancie found
 and declared by a grand Jury, and expressly supposed by an ex-
 ception in his favours contained in an act of Parliament, and that
 now He goes openly to the Mass, and marches in solemne pro-
 ceSSIONS, to the horreur of all good Protestant subjects: The lous-
 ing and exempting the King's sons and brothers, from what
 themselves conceived to be the best fence, and greatest security
 for the Protestant Religion: The imposing and pressing of oaths
 without law, manifestly contradictory, and that by terrible mi-
 naceings, violent beatings, rigorous imprisonings, and irre-
 ligious swearings, no less barbarous then what was practised by
 the Spaniards in Christianizing the wilde Indians; The eating up of
 men by free quarters, or otherwise falling on them by downright
 violence, as driving with drawn swords, to constrain them to
 hear whom in their conscience they judged unsent and uncalled
 Curats, to the effacing of all conscience, and open scorn of God
 and that pure and free Religion which he only accepts; The com-
 pelling the Heritors of Shires to assess themselves, and the free
 subjects within their bounds, a thing expressly denyed to the King
 himself by law, and only reserved unto Parliaments; The forning
 upon, harraßing and destroying the best parts of the countrey by
 four extraordinary Circuits, upon one and the same subject of Bon-
 well bridge, on purpose as it were to justifie his Highnes judg-
 ment to his late Majesty, *That it would not be well with Scot-
 land until the south of Forth* (the better and more substantial part
 of the Kingdom) were turned to a hunting field, and to ver-
 ifie the late Chancelour the Earle of Aberdeen his affirmation at
 the Councel boord, *That there was not a loyal subject westward
 of the Castle of Edenburgh*; The industrious stiffling, hindring,
 and blinding the detection of all Popish plots; The shaming of most
 plots upon good Protestants; The suborning of witnesses, hunt-
 ding out & encourageing of assassines to murder and cut the
 throats of honest men, and generally in the studied and constant

ensnaring or ruining, upon every shadow of pretence, all esteem'd either fixed to the Protestant Interest or well affected to their countreys liberty.

This wicked Mystery (we say) and conspiracy of Popery & Tyrannie, inseperably twisted both in experience & reason, in all their attempts upon these great and mighty Nations, so unanimously united and firmly fixed in their contrary Profession, Rights, & Liberties, having made so great a progress by the steps above-mentioned, is now at length evidently disclosed, revealed, & brought to full maturity, by the most suspicious (though withall most ungrate) cutting off of the late King, as having indeed very unhapily acted all that part of which the Conspirators did judge him capable; The ascending of James Duke of York a notorious Apostat *Jam. 6.* and bigot Papist to the throne, notwithstanding his being thrice *Par: 1.* excluded by the Commons of England, and that he neither *cap. 8.* hath given nor can give, without an hypocritical & damning cheat, repugnant to his profession, and contemptible to all ingenuous men, the oath and security indispenibly required of him, befor and at his entry to the government; The approaching of two Parliaments, both called by him, one in Scotland by his own vigilant providence, in procureing it to be enacted in the last Parliament held by him in that Kingdom, that for the future not only all members of Parliament but also all their electors sho ld take that contradictory and irreligious oath commonly called the *Test*, which no man owning conscience or careing for any Religion can possibly approve, long since prepared for all his pleasure, and the other in England, packt, caball'd and returned, by all the arts and methods that either fraud or injustice could invent, to render it plyable to his intentions, and which no doubt he will cajoll with all the fair promises and large offers of laws that can be desired for securing both the Protestant Religion & their liberties, providing they will but give money, which answers all things, and will assuredly frustrat & ranvers all these vzin cautions: The pursueing with indefatigable malice, even without the bounds of the Kingdoms, and in all forraign parts, all honest men escaped for their lives,

lives, and that either by publik addresses or privat violence. The entering into and intertaining more close correspondencies then at any time before with Popish Princes, and States, especially the King of France, a most notorious enemy both of the true Religion and liberty of mankind: And lastly by all that may be already seen in the changes and alterations he hath lately made, and that for hereafter may be apprehended from a false and bloody Religion, alwayes breathing forth and practising fire, and faggot, murders, and massacres, and a provoked, and enraged mind possessing and reigning in the most determined of Princes unquestionably capable and ready to execut all these bloody cruelties.

Which things being all of them either palpable perversions of, or utterly inconsistent with the true and great ends of government, rendering our common-wealth our common calamity, and him who pretends to be its protector its most hostile enemy, and consequently importing no less then a total dissolution of all the bonds of subjection, which the Rulers have first so wickedly broken and cut asunder, and the liberating and allowing distressed subjects, whether those already overwhelmed by, or who may justly for hereafter fear to be involved in these miseries, the undoubted right and power, which both God and nature, with the common reason and constant custom of all nations hath given us for defending, recovering, and maintaining our lives & liberties, and above all the unestimable blessing of our pure Religion, to the effect that the same pure Religion with our just rights and liberties, so valiantly asserted by our Ancestors, may be by us faithfully transmitted to our posterity.

We have been and are obliged & constrained by extreme necessity and for common safety, the supreme laws, to take up just and necessary arms, in the name and fear of the great God, and the confidence of his mercy and assistance, for our own and our countreys relief, from the aforesaid most grievous and intolerable Tyrannies and oppressions, the defence and reestablishment of the true and pure Christian Religion, commonly called *Puritan*.

stant in opposition to the Antichristian Roman Religion, commonly called Papistical, and the recovery and resettlement of all our just rights, liberties, and priviledges, according as we stand indispensibly oblied thereto, both befor God & men, and that against the said *James Duke of York*, and all other his Compli-ces, our most unnatural and wicked enemies, and oppressors: desiring, in the first place, to be deeply humbled each of us befor God for our manifold sins and provocations, especialy our false-heartedness, and unsteadfastness, in revolting from our great and manifold engagements to him, that alone have brought upon us all these sad mischiefs earnestly and with our whole hearts supplicating that he would *cease from his* *cause his face to shine upon us, and save us for* *sake.* And in the next place declaring, Likeas presly declare, That our sincere and single ends in this our undertaking, are, 1. The restoring and le- forsaide true reformed Protestant Religion, in its power and purity, and with such a just comprehension of pure Christian charity as may, through the good hand of our God upon us, be truly satisfieing to all that fear him, and love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, re-nouncing and detasting as well imposings as errors, in all mat- ters of conscience, and trusting that, after the many teaching experiences we have had, we shall be for hereafter preserved from all unhappy misunderstandings, but rather through the spi- rit of love, truth, and peace, graciously led into all the paths thereof. 2. The suppression and perpetuall exclusion of Antichri- stian Popery, with all its idolatrous superstitions and falsehoods, as also of its most bitter root and offspring Prelacie, with its new and wicked head the Supremacy, and all their abuses. That so not only the Gospel and work of God may be revived in these Lands, but also all the Churches of Christ abroad there- by refreshed and strengthened. And 3. The restoring of all men to their just Rights and Liberties, especialy the recompence- ing of all sufferers, whether unto blood or losse of liberty and
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goods, the relief of such who are in present distress, the removing of all oppression, and establishing such righteous laws and methods of Government as may be most for the securing of liberty and property, with the greatest ease and equality: Which things as we purpose and hope to accomplish, only through the presence of our God with us, and his blessing upon us, so we are most willing and resolve, that they be all settled and perfected by a free, full, just, and soveraign representative of all the present undertakers, and such as shall hereafter sincerely concur and take part with us, and that in such formes and wayes as God by his good providence can only most happily direct and conduct

Declaring & protesting further, That since such have manifest perfidy, treacherie, and falshood of, not only in their treaties and covenants, but pardons, indemnities, and indulgences, as that they leave no ground or tolerable assurance of faith and trust to be given to them, we will never enter into any terms of capitulation, treatie, or conditions, with them, as to the great ends of this undertaking; but, on the contrair, prosecute the same with all reality, constancy, and vigour, without any separation, division, or backdrawing, untill they be perfectly and finally obtained. Upon which grounds, and for which ends, above-mentioned, we not only hereby most sincerely and firmly protest and declare, as in the presence of God, constantly and perpetually to adhere to, assist, and maintain one another, to the uttermost, against all deadly, but do moreover freely and heartily resolve and engage our selves to countenance, and concur with all our persecuted & oppressed brethren, and friends, in England, and Ireland, who from the like reasons and motives shall be induced and stirred up to the like undertakings, for the same or the like ends.

Wherefor we most seriously and humbly beseech and obtest, in the bowels of our Lord Jesus Christ, all that love his truth, and this our righteous cause, none excepted, tho either formerly little

concerned for and favourable to us, and these interests, or even still in actual opposition against us & them (their sincere repentance being at all times most acceptable to God; and not to be better witnessed before men, then by a contrary and vigorous amendment) to come and joyn with us, for God's glory and Gospel, our countrey, lives, rights, and liberties, and our posterities and all our hope, against an Apostate, Papistical, usurping, and persecuting Tyrant, by the most sacred article of his Religion our mortal enemy, under the pain of his own damnation, and by the fundamental and express * Laws of the land incapable of the meanest office within the Kingdom, and in effect a declared enemy and Rebel who even by the act lately made by himself the way to his succession, can have no shadow to the benefit thereof, unless he first instruct himself to be the lawfull, and the immediat and nearest he.

Crown, which without satisfieing the old Law, at the same time ratified, by swearing to imbrace and maintain the true reformed Protestant Religion, he can never possibly be, as was then distinctly understood and declared by the principal Framers of that act: And against his Adherents and Partakers, a perjured, revolted, and self-condemned generation, upon whom the Lord, who will not give his glory to any other, hath formerly got himself a name, and renown, before all the Nations, whom our sins only have exalted, and whose hearts can never endure, or their hands be strong, when the Lord of hosts, who is on our side, and hath a perpetual indignation against all the wicked in the earth, shall arise and deal with them. And this our most earnest call and request, we confidently hope, shall be more readily hearkned unto, and heartily and seriously complied with, That, in the issue, through the blessing of God, it assuredly promises not only the restitution of Truth, Prosperity, and glory, to these long misgoverned, harrassed, and

disgraced Nations , but the sure defence and protection of true Religion and liberty , every where , (Britains certain great interest , of late most shamefully abandoned) even the depression of Antichrist , and the advancement and exaltation of the Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ on the earth.

Let us Therfor be of good courage , and play the man for our people , and for the cause of our God , and the do that which seemeth him good.

F I N I S.

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